

Deaf Culture Question of the Week – Mar 5-9, 2012
Bill Newell, Principal Washington School for the Deaf

By most people, considered “The Father of the AAAD.”

- a) Frederick Schreiber
- b) Art Kruger
- c) Roy Holcomb
- d) Robert Weibrecht

Answer “b” – Art Kruger became deaf at the age of 3. It is believed he was deafened during a fire in his home or by being thrown by his sister into a fireman’s net. By his own account he was never really sure how he became deaf. Art was born in Pennsylvania in 1911. He graduated from Gallaudet University in 1933. Art himself was never an athlete. At Gallaudet he became interested in managing, record-keeping and reporting on the athletic teams. This experience began a life-long dedication to promoting athletics within the Deaf community.

In the mid 1940s Art along with other interested sports enthusiasts founded the American Athletic Association of the Deaf (AAAD). On April 14, 1945 the First National Club of the Deaf Basketball Tournament was held in Akron, Ohio. At this tournament Art Kruger was elected the first president of the AAAD. (Source: Moore and Panara, (1996) Great Deaf Americans, 2nd edition, Rochester, NY)

In 1997 the AAAD changed its name to the USA Deaf Sports Federation (USADSF). Read about the history of the AAAD and the USADSF at:
<http://www.usdeafsports.org/about/history/>.

Read more about Art Kruger and his dedication to the world of Deaf athletics here: http://deafpeople.com/history/history_info/kruger.html

Read the tribute to Art Kruger by Gallaudet University upon his death here:
<http://www.deafbiography.com/biography/artkrugerbio.htm>

Finally, don’t miss this wonderful YouTube video showing clips of Art Kruger

and Tom Elliot (another of the co-founders of the AAAD) talking about the early years of the AAAD. This video also includes clips of Deaf Basketball tournament play. Enjoy!

Deaf Culture Questions of the Week are archived at: <http://www.wsd.wa.gov>